



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Approval of the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area Policy Statement

MEETING DATE: March 18, 1992

PREPARED BY: Parks and Recreation Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION. That the City Council approve the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area Policy Statement as proposed by the Nature Area Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION. The Nature Area Advisory Committee when it was formed was charged with the responsibility of developing a policy statement for the Lodi Lake Nature Area. The highlights of this statement is as follows "To maintain and develop the Nature Area as a managed natural area." As stated, this means that some controlled development and management will occur. The areas addressed in the policy deal with general safety, rules for human use, maintenance statement, and statements having to do with the introduction and maintenance of existing animal and plant life.

A particular note in this policy is the recommendation to prohibit the use of alcohol and also a prohibition against picnicking in the Nature Area—

1.1 substance of policy is to maintain the Nature Area in its present condition and to insure the integrity is not compromised by over use.

FUNDING:

None required

Ron Williamson, Parks & Recreation Director

Prepared by Scott Essin, Parks Superintendent

APPROVED:

THOMAS A. PETERSON
City Manager



LQDI LAKE NATURE AREA

NATURE AREA POLICY STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION:

This statement is intended to draw final public comment on the actions proposed by the Lodi Lake Nature Area Advisory **Committee** regarding the Lodi Lake Nature Area. It is intended that recommendations will be made to the Park Commission next month. and upon approval, implemented.

GENERAL POLICY:

It is the intent ~~of~~ the Nature Area Advisors **Committee** (N.A.A.C.), that Lodi Lake Nature Area be developed **and** managed as a "natural" area. ~~Urban~~ development **has** left little ~~or~~ no ~~riparian~~ habitat inside the City ~~of~~ Lodi. **We**, therefore, feel it ~~is~~ important to protect a representative area ~~of~~ natural vegetation **and** wildlife, **which** is in the City ~~of~~ Lodi. In ~~order~~ to maintain and **enhance** natural conditions, it will be **necessary** that some controlled development and management occur. **Any** contemplated development will be kept on a minimal **scale** to allow natural ~~processes~~ to occur. The ultimate goal ~~is~~ the establishment ~~of~~ a natural area which will be managed to protect the wildlife as well as foster human enjoyment and appreciation ~~of~~ that wildlife.

SPECIFIC POLICIES:

I. GENERAL SAFETY:

Fire Lanes; ~~fire~~ lanes **are** required but should **be** kept to a maximum maintained width of 12 feet.

Fire Hydrants; ~~fire~~ Hydrants must be kept visible.

II. PRUNING SAFETY:

A. Dead limbs and trees within the natural area should be left in place, except where it poses a hazard to the public (i.e., over or near the main trails, amphitheater, benches, trash receptacles and fire hydrants). Bracing of limbs and trees should be done in an inconspicuous manner.

III. PREVENTIVE PRUNING:

A. Diseased, dead or decayed trees or limbs should be removed only if they are over trails or other areas of concentrated use.

B. When such wood is cut, it should be left intact and on the ground.

C. In cases where the basic health of a tree is threatened by disease or decay, limited pruning should be accomplished for preservation of the healthy trees.

D. Wild grapevines are not to be removed from trees.

IV. PARASITE AND FUNGUS CONTROL

A. Mistletoe should be allowed to remain. It should be removed only in such cases where a limb is broken and/or split.

B. If mistletoe should kill a tree, then that tree should be treated as indicated in II and III.

V. GROUND COVER

A. Noxious weeds as determined by the NAAC, should be removed by mechanical means whenever this method is found to be practical. If such removal is not practical, then non-persistent herbicides should be used, but only to the minimum extent necessary to accomplish control of noxious weeds.

B. In no cases should persistent herbicides be used.

C. Large fallen trees and limbs should be left where they fall in the natural area to provide habitat. Brush and twigs should not be piled or allowed to accumulate in mounds or piles which would pose a potential fire hazard.

D. Natural ground cover may be introduced in the natural area.

1. Wildflowers and other plants may be established, but selected for survivability to represent a mix as practical, and to provide habitat and food for wildlife.

2 Selective removal of ground covers may be appropriate to establish an evolving riparian forest habitat.

E. Water may be provided for establishment and maintenance of natural ground cover.

VI. INTRODUCTION OF AND MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE:

A. Native plant species occurring in the nature area should be protected and encouraged. However, it is understood that the term describes the general rule. The absolute adherence to that principle is not expected, nor considered practical.

B. Native plant species found in the Central Valley habitat areas may be introduced, cared for, and watered until established.

C. Native animal life should be encouraged and protected.

D. Maintenance policies should be designed to prevent the park from becoming a refuge for feral cats, noxious weeds and appropriate measures should be instituted to control these factors.

E. To protect small animals and birds, dogs and cats are to be excluded by establishing a cyclone and blackberry fence barrier.

VII. MAINTAINING NATURAL AREAS:

- A. An educational program should be instituted to encourage visitors to stay on trails in **the** natural areas.
- B. Fences, signs, and interpretive personnel should be used to encourage enjoyment, understanding and proper use of the natural areas.
- C. A Nature Study Center should be established in **the Lodi Lake Concession Stand**.

VIII. PIGS LAKE - Plan to be developed.

IX. SLOUGH - Plan to be developed.

RULES FOR HUMAN USE

As with other **parks** within Lodi, **restrictions** of human **uses** are necessary. They are required to optimize the **intended** uses of **this** facility, provide safety and preserve our **resources**.

- 1. Animals and plants are not to be damaged, trapped, killed, or removed **from within the** Natural Area.
- 2. A low speed limit shall be posted along **the** adjacent **portion** of **the** river for boats.
- 3. Bikes will be allowed on designated **trails** only. (LCC 12.12.255)
- 4. Joggers are to remain **on** the pathways.
- 6. Running events are limited to those meeting all the **below** qualifications:
 - 1. Approved by the **Parks** and Recreation Department.
 - 2. Held **the** previous year by the same **sponsoring** organization
 - a. Christmas Tree Run
 - b. Crime Fair Run
 - c. Field & Fair Day Run

d. Lodi Trinthalon

e. High School Cross Country Track Meets

3. **Having** no observable negative impact on the natural integrity or aesthetics of the nature area.

a. **Any flags** or other markers will be **removed** by the run organization on the **race** day or following day.

b. Chalk or **gypsum** arrows will not be used.

c. Approved **course** will consist only of the main trail loop that has also been designated as allowed for bicycle traffic.

6. **Rebstrians** are requested to remain on established trails.

7. No **swimming** or **wading** will be allowed.

8. No **picnics** are allowed.

9. No **fireworks** are allowed.

10. **Dogs** and **cats** are not to be permitted within the Natural Area.

11. No Alcohol is allowed.

5 YEAR PLAN/GOALS

1. The Restoration of a **full** spectrum of indigenous other animals.
2. The Restoration of diverse, ecological habitats characteristic of Central Valley of California.
3. The Development of Pigs Lake Master Plan.
4. The Development of Cattail Creek Master Plan.
5. The Development expanded programs for better appreciation of the Natural Area.
6. The Development of interpretive path for all citizens.
7. Position Natural Area to be able to receive **grant** money.